

Remarks Regarding Amendments:

Claims 21-56 are pending in this application. The Examiner has determined that Claims 50-54 are allowable and that Claims 28-34 and 42-49 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Though Applicant may not agree with the rejections of Claims 21-26, 35-41, 55 and 56, Applicant desires to obtain a patent as soon as possible and accordingly will cancel without prejudice most of the rejected claims.

Please cancel, without prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the claims in a continuation application, Claims 21-26, 35-39, and 55.

Please amend Claims 27 and 29 as described below in order to incorporate the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is Applicant's intent that no prosecution history estoppel will attach as a result of this amendment which merely expressly incorporates that which was already incorporated by reference. In accordance with Examiner's acknowledgement, this amendment should make Claims 27-34 allowable.

Though the Examiner acknowledges that Claims 42-49 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that rewriting the claims is premature at this time. For reasons discussed separately below, Applicant submits that Claim 40 is allowable. Accordingly, Claims 41-49, which depend from Claim 40, will be allowable if Claim 40 is allowed. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to amend at a later time Claims 42-49 per the recommendation of the Examiner.

Please amend Claim 56 as described below in order to incorporate the limitations of the base claim. It is Applicant's intent that no prosecution history estoppel will attach as a result of this amendment, which merely expressly incorporates that which was already incorporated by reference. In accordance with the reasoning presented separately below, this amendment should make Claim 56 allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment and allowance of Claims 27-34, 40-54 and 56.

After the entry of these amendments, claims 27-34, 40-54 and 56 will be pending, which means there will be twenty-four (24) total claims, including five (5)

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independent claims. Applicant previously paid for thirty-six (36) total claims, including five (5) independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no additional fees are due upon entry of this amendment. However, if any fees are required with the entry of this amendment (including fees for the net addition of claims), Applicant's counsel respectfully requests that any such fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1129.